

REMARKS

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 53 to 55 and potential allowability of claims 23 to 33.

The present patent application now comprises twenty-nine (29) claims, numbered 23 to 48 and 53 to 55.

Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form, including the features of claims 15 and 18 to 22, which have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 34 to 38, 44, 47 and 48 have been amended to make them dependent on claim 23, rather than on claim 15, which has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 11, 16, 17, 51 and 52 and 56 to 60 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the present response.

Rejection of Claims 1 to 10, 12 to 15, 18 to 22 and 34 to 50 under 35 USC 102 or 103, and Remarks regarding Potential Allowability of Claims 23 to 33

On pages 6 to 16 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 to 10, 12 to 15, 18 to 22 and 34 to 50 under 35 USC 102(b) and/or 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by and/or obvious over various references. Specifically:

- the Examiner rejects claims 15, 18 to 22, 34, 36, 37, 49 and 50 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by or, alternatively, under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Windows NT/2000 as illustrated by Jeff Schmidt in "Microsoft Windows 2000 Security Handbook", ISBN 0789719991, August 2000 (hereinafter referred to as "Schmidt");
- the Examiner rejects claims 15, 35, 36 and 44 to 50 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by or, alternatively, under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Windows

2000 as illustrated by Microsoft TechNet in "Data Protection Implementing the Encrypting File System in Windows 2000" posted in "Windows 2000 File Systems Tutorials", in particular "Step-by-Step Guide to Encrypting File System (EFS) article in May 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "Microsoft TechNet");

- the Examiner rejects claims 38 to 43 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Windows 2000 as illustrated by Microsoft TechNet in view of U.S. Patent 5,677,952 to Blakley, III *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "Blakley") and Bruce Schneier in "Applied Cryptography, Protocols, Algorithms and Source Code in C", 2nd edition, ISBN 0471128457, 1996 (hereinafter referred to as "Schneier"); and
- the Examiner rejects claims 1 to 10 and 12 to 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over "How Computers Work" by Ron White, 7th edition, ISBN 0789730332, October 2003 (hereinafter referred to as "White") in view of U.S. Patent 6,963,979 to Fairclough *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "Fairclough").

Now, on page 16 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicates that each of claims 23 to 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form, including the features of claims 15 and 18 to 22, which have been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, claims 34 to 38, 44, 47 and 48 have been amended to make them dependent on claim 23. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's remarks regarding potential allowability of claim 23, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23 to 48 are allowable.

Claims 1 to 10, 12 to 22, 49 and 50 have been cancelled without prejudice and thus their rejection is moot.

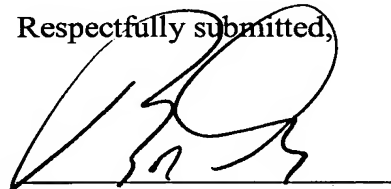
CONCLUSION

Allowance of claims 53 to 55 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 23 to 48 are believed to be allowable. Allowance of the present patent application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the claims of the application are not considered to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the Applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims or in making constructive suggestions so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

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Respectfully submitted,



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